BUREAU OF STATISTICS

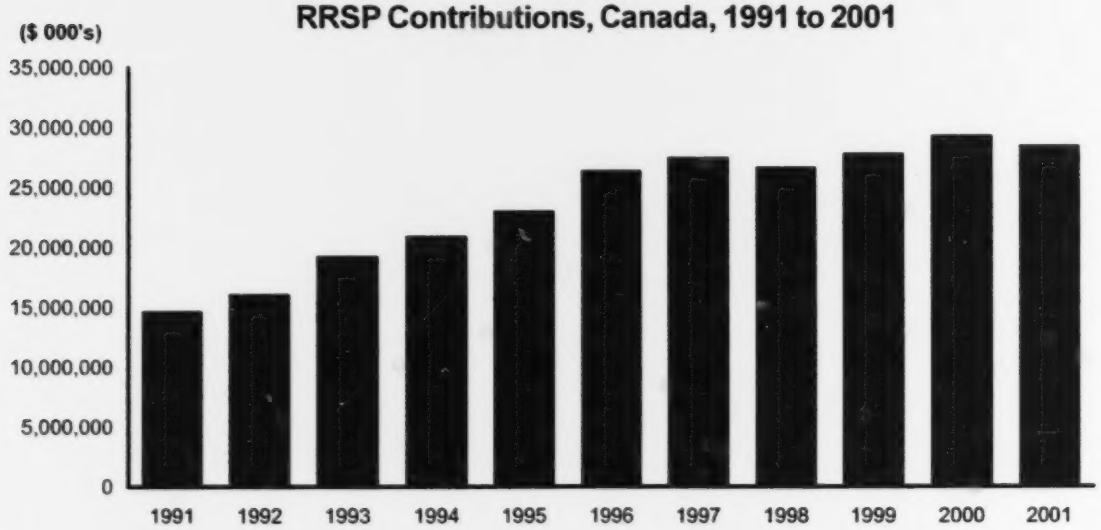
RRSP CONTRIBUTIONS

2001

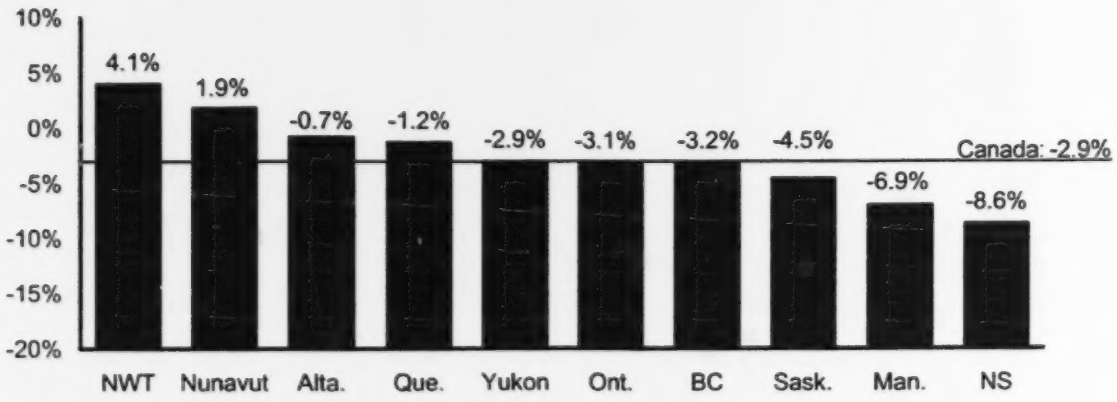
How much did Canadians contribute to RRSPs in 2001?

Canadians contributed $28.4 billion to registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) in 2001. Contributions were down in 2001 by $841,000, or 2.9%, from 2000. In 2000, contributions increased by 5.4% from 1999. The number of Canadians contributing to RRSPs was also down slighlty in 2001 from 2000. In 2001, 6,241,050 Canadians contributed, down 50,120 or 0.8% from 2000.

RRSP Contributions, Canada, 1991 to 2001



Percentage Change in RRSP Contributions from 2000 to 2001



What was the median RRSP contribution by an individual in 2001?

Nationally, the median RRSP contribution was $2,600, down $100, or 3.7%, from the 2000. The Yukon recorded the third highest median RRSP contribution ($3,100). Nunavut reported the highest median contribution at $4,400 and NWT the second-highest at $3,500. The median is the middle point at which half the contribution amounts were higher and half lower. In 2001, the Yukon was exactly the same as the Canadian average in terms of percentage change in total RRSP contributions (-2.9%) as compared to 2000.

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What were some characteristics of RRSP contributors in 2001?

- While women in Canada represented 51% of the tax-filing population, they accounted for 45% of RRSP contributors and only 38% of total contributions for 2001. **The Yukon recorded the highest proportion of contributing women (53%)**, followed by British Columbia and the NWT (both 47%), and Manitoba and Ontario (at 46%).

- The median RRSP contribution was higher for men than for women in all provinces and territories.

- Canadians closest to retirement (55 to 64) accounted for 19% of the total contributions, while comprising 14% of total contributors. Conversely, 26% of contributors were under the age of 34, while their contributions represented 18% of the total. Persons aged 35 to 44 accounted for 29% of the contributions and 30% of the contributors, while those 45 to 54 accounted for 31% of the contributions and 28% of the contributors.

- Nunavut had the lowest average age of contributors (40 years). The average Canadian RRSP contributor was 43 years of age in 2001, the same as in 2000.

- Nationally, the median employment income for RRSP contributors was $40,400, an increase of 2.5% over 2000 ($39,400). The Yukon had the third highest median employment income for RRSP contributors at $47,500, an increase of $1,100 or 2.4% from 2000 ($46,400).

Characteristics of RRSP Contributions and Contributors

	Median RRSP Contributions			Number of Contributors	Contributors as a % of Labour Force	Median Employment Income	Average Age	Female Contributors
	Total	Male	Female					
	——$——					($)		(%)
Yukon	**3,100**	**3,700**	**2,800**	**5,990**	**39.9%**	**47,500**	**43**	**53**
Canada	2,600	3,000	2,200	6,241,050	38.4%	40,400	43	45
Newfoundland & Labrador	2,200	2,500	1,900	62,070	24.6%	37,200	43	40
PEI	2,000	2,400	1,600	20,690	27.7%	32,200	44	45
Nova Scotia	2,100	2,500	1,800	139,190	29.7%	37,400	43	44
New Brunswick	2,000	2,400	1,700	105,600	28.0%	36,100	43	42
Quebec	2,400	2,900	2,000	1,548,010	40.7%	37,500	43	44
Ontario	2,800	3,200	2,400	2,462,280	38.7%	43,200	43	46
Manitoba	2,100	2,500	1,900	221,850	37.8%	36,000	43	46
Saskatchewan	2,400	2,800	2,000	184,950	36.9%	36,000	43	45
Alberta	2,800	3,400	2,300	680,100	39.8%	42,600	42	44
BC	2,900	3,300	2,400	800,780	38.1%	40,100	43	47
NWT	3,500	4,000	3,000	7,190	..	59,100	41	47
Nunavut	4,400	5,000	3,800	2,350	..	69,100	40	42

Yukon
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